

# TRI-STATE COOP

## WINTER 2006

**Lawrence G. Boyd, OPL**



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## BUSY 2005

It was a busy 2005 with many relocations and a few new sites installed. The following is a list of all relocations done during last year.

Doyle Loutzenhizer is our new coop observer in Stratton, Colorado. Joni Denton at Goodland 19SW, Kansas. Robert Vance in Eckley, Colorado. Danny Pakkebier in Densmore 2N, Kansas. Jordan Carroll in Atwood, Kansas. Oberlin, Kansas was relocated twice and the new observer there is now James Merriott. Wakeeney 11NNE, Kansas is now Wakeeney 16NNE and the new observer is Willis Brandyberry. Tribune 14N, Kansas is now Tribune 13NNE and the new Observer is Sally Peter. Vernon 4SW, Colorado is now Vernon 4E and the new observers are Dean and Charlotte Long. Eckley 16NNW was replaced with a new station at Clarkville 1N. Larry Myers is our new observer there.



I am sorry to report a great loss to our coop program. Louise Vance of Eckley, Colorado passed away in the spring of 2005 after fighting a long battle with cancer. In 2003, she received her 15 year length of service award and I had the pleasure of presenting it to her. Even during her last remaining years with us, she never faltered in her duties to get her weather information to us. Her son, Robert Vance continues to provide us the data now. We wish to express our deepest sympathies to her family members.



Louise Vance receiving her 15 year length of service award with Vic Stegemiller, Intern, WFO Goodland.

We also lost John Pinalto of Atwood 2SW. John was a school bus driver and had just dropped off his last child when he was struck with a heart attack. He served as a coop observer for us for the past 19 years. Jordan Carroll, an Atwood High School student, is now taking over the observations.

## AWARDS 2005



Tom Horobik, our coop observer in Benkelman, Nebraska, poses with his wife showing his 10 year length of service award.



Don Sulzman our coop observer in Dresden, Kansas received his 20 year length of service award.



Ed Richmeier, our coop observer in Quinter, Kansas, received his 10 year length of service award.



J. Williard Treu, our coop observer from Studley 9NNW, Kansas, received his 30 year length of service award.

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Delbert Rose, our coop observer from Oakley 22S, Kansas, received his 40 year length of service award.



Wight Sims, our coop observer from Mingo 5E, Kansas, received his 25 year length of service award. Pictured with Mr. Sims is Larry Boyd, OPL Goodland, Kansas.



Wilford McDonald, our coop observer from McDonald, Kansas received his 35 year length of service award.

The staff from WFO Goodland, Kansas congratulates all our observers who have provided us with their valuable services over the many years.

## **I'M A NERON**

### **(And proud of it!)**

NOAA's Environmental Real-time Observation Network is a new national program to install automated climate and weather observing stations every 400 square miles. Each station records air temperature and precipitation accumulation every five minutes and reports that information every 15 to 60 minutes. The implementation of this program is an historic event because no other national climate networks in the world produce observations every 5 minutes and make them available in real time.

The information from these stations will not only describe the Nation's climate but will provide valuable information for water resource management and flood and drought forecasting, and will provide input for sophisticated computer weather models. The opportunities for new scientific discoveries are unlimited.

These stations are part of the National Weather Service's (NWS) effort to modernize the Cooperative Observer Program. This program consists of more than 11,000 volunteer observers across the country who record daily readings of temperature and precipitation. These observations have formed the climate record of the U.S. but have not been available in real time.

One hundred stations have been installed in New England and eastern New York as the first phase of the

NOAA's Environmental Real-time Observation Network.

When will NERON hit the Tri State region? It already has! Enough funds were made available to begin installing new sites for the state of Colorado. Two sites were chosen from our region which were Cheyenne Wells and Wray, Colorado. Site surveys were done and installation of these new sites will begin sometime during this year. For more information about NERON, go to their website at <http://www.isos.noaa.gov/>.

### **Fischer-Porter Upgrades**



As part of the Cooperative Observer Product (COOP) Improvement Program, the National Weather Service (W/OS7) is replacing the tape punch mechanism in Fischer & Porter/Belfort precipitation gauges with digital data recording and reporting capabilities. The planned replacement, known collectively as the Fischer - Porter Upgrade (FPU), has met contract acceptance test

criteria and is certified for Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) at selected sites prior to full program implementation.

The FPU is a replacement recording system that senses, converts, and records precipitation data at 15 minute intervals; maintains a non-volatile record of the data sufficient to support monthly data retrieval; allows operator notations to indicate changes due to emptying the gauge or other maintenance; provide a non-volatile removable electronic memory transport module; displays the amount of captured precipitation in inches of water; and, supports shaft encoder and thermistor measurements.

These changes may take place over the next couple of years. We will probably start with our institutional sites first. For more information about these changes, go to the following website:

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/FPU\\_Project/index.html](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mlb/FPU_Project/index.html)



## **B 91 REPORTS**

Every month when you send in your B-91 reports, we look them over before we send them in to the National Climatic Data Center for archive purposes. It is important for them to be accurate. Below are a few items we have found that need to be addressed to help you remember how to properly fill them out.

First, I want to address the 24 hour amount, precipitation, snowfall and snow depth columns.

NEVER use the (") mark for inches. It is not needed.

NEVER use fractions. Measure precipitation to the nearest hundredth of an inch (0.03). Measure snowfall to the nearest tenth of an inch (0.3). And measure snow depth to the nearest whole inch (3).

In the precipitation column, if you have no precipitation for that day, enter 0 or 0.00. Do not leave blank or put a dash (-). If you leave it blank, NCDC will consider it missing data.

The snowfall column can be left blank if no snow fell that day. If you still have snow on the ground, you must

put how much snow you have each day until it has melted. Otherwise, you can leave that column blank too if there is no snow on the ground.

they will have the proper postage.

In the temperature columns for Max, Min and Current readings, if you have missing data, put M. If you want to state a reason why the data is missing, put it in the Remarks column.

Several years ago, we sent you labels with your station index number on them and you would put these labels in the Station Index block in the lower right hand corner of your B 91 form. We no longer are doing that. You will have to manually enter your station index number there from now on.

FYI-In the Supervising Office block, also in the lower right hand corner, put WFO GLD which stands for Weather Forecast Office Goodland.

From time to time, take a look at the examples on your B-91 form which shows you how to properly enter your data. As always, be sure both the upper left hand corner and the bottom right hand corner boxes are filled in properly.

### **2 CENTS WORTH**

As you all probably know, the postal service has increased rates by 2 cents for regular envelope mail. The Fischer-Porter mailers have increased by 3 cents. You do not need to put the extra postage on them when mailing them to us. We take care of it here at the office. When we ship your new supplies to you,

## 2005 Annual Coop Rainfall Reports 1